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Note verbale dated 31 August 2018 from the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to the communication addressed to the United Nations by the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, dated 5 July 2018 (A/73/212), has the honour to state the following:

All activities, including the patrol of the vessels of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf, are conducted in accordance with the international law of the sea and within the laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The obligations and rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran under the aforementioned regulations have always been taken into account. On this basis, the groundless claims raised in the above-mentioned communication are categorically and firmly rejected.

It should also be recalled that it is an undisputed historical fact that the full term "Persian Gulf" has always been the only standard geographical designation for the body of water between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula. In this context, the policy and practices of the United Nations in the standardization of the term "Persian Gulf" as the only term applicable to this area are noteworthy and should therefore be respected by all.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has always pursued the policy of friendship, good faith and good neighbourliness towards all neighbouring countries in the Persian Gulf region and, on the basis of this fundamental policy, expects the neighbouring countries to follow the same policy.

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations would appreciate it if the present note verbale could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 78 (a) of the provisional agenda, and published in the next issue of the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*.

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